

COCHISE COUNTY

March 22, 2016 Presidential Preference Election Recap & Canvass of Election

Board of Supervisors' Special Meeting
March 31, 2016



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Staff's View

- ✓ Overall, this was the smoothest, most trouble-free election conducted in years
- ✓ There were no system or machine failures
- ✓ Poll workers who agreed to work, showed up and generally did a good job – even with a new system and consolidated Vote Centers
- ✓ There are some things we can and will work on (with signage & poll worker training)



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Poll Workers' Reports

- ✓ Equipment worked well – few problems resolved immediately by Troubleshooters
 - ✓ VC7 worked through 1 ½ hours w/o electricity
- ✓ Some voters unaware of new Vote Center locations
- ✓ MANY PROVISIONALS:
 - ✓ Many Early Voters stated did not receive their Early ballots
 - ✓ Many Ind or PND were not aware they could not vote
 - ✓ Many changed party recently and tablet did not reflect changes



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Discussion Points

1. New election system (hardware & software) –
How well did it work?
2. 18 countywide Vote Centers –
How well did they work?
3. PPE Outreach regarding eligible voters
How well did that work?
4. Voter turnout
5. Review Canvass Reports



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New Election System

June 2015 – BOS approved purchase of new \$1.1MM election system

- Equipment delivered & inventoried June 30, 2015

July 2015

- Vendor conducted Acceptance Testing

August 2015

- Vendor conducted initial User Training for Elections, Records & BOS staff; user acceptance testing
- August 2015- February 2016 –
 - Elections/Records staff conducted Voter Outreach sessions demo'ing equipment to over 1200 voters (including 4 days at County Fair, 2 days Open House at Elections & 25 off-site demonstrations)



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New Election System

Dec 2015- Jan 2016 –

- Elections staff conducted elections equipment testing
- ES&S conducted ballot programming training
- Elections staff, w/ IT support, program ballots for Douglas March 8, 2016 election (all-mail election)
- Elections staff, w/ IT support, program PPE ballots for statewide March 22, 2016 PPE election

February 2016 –

- Secretary of State conducts L&A Test for 3/22/16 PPE
- Elections staff con-



duct Poll Worker Training

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New Election System

March 8, 2016 –

- First all-mail election (Douglas) a success!

March 22, 2016 – PPE

- End-to-end election system deployed across 18 Vote Centers countywide with ePollbooks connected via routers through CentralPoint for coordinated check-in of voters; blank ballot card stock printed with correct ballot style bar code based on VR data; voters voted on touch-screen ExpressVote machines & feed ballots into DS200s for tabulation.

- First “live run:”



for election system.

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New Election System – How well did it work?

RESULTS:

- ✓ Connectivity between tablets (ePollbooks) & CentralPoint worked flawlessly
- ✓ Machines functioned as designed.
 - ✓ NO machines had to be 'switched-out' during the election
 - ✓ Poll workers had little trouble with equipment
 - ✓ Troubleshooters quickly resolved any minor problems



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Vote Centers

- When the purchase of the new system was approved, the Vote Center model (consolidated polling places) was proposed as a:
 - Cost-saving, efficient model for voting
 - Increased Voter convenience by allowing voters to vote anywhere in the county
 - Allowed the county to pool their resources and poll workers to provide better service at Vote Centers
- The BOS approved the locations in Sept. 2015.
- The 18 Vote Centers were secured and signed contracts were obtained for each – for all 4 of the major 2016 elections.



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Vote Centers

Nov 2015 – Feb 2016 –

- Elections staff, w/ IT support, test connectivity of routers at each Vote Center
- Info about Vote Centers is published in the newspaper, in Press Releases and several articles
- Info about Vote Centers is also included on thousands of Bookmarks distributed to the public, given to candidates for distribution, distributed & discussed during Voter Outreach sessions
- Info about Vote Centers is also pushed on Facebook, Twitter, the Elections website
- Signage (for posting) and a letter is sent to every former precinct polling location that will not be used in 2016, requesting them to post signage with Vote Center locations before each election
- Every Vote Center is listed on EVERY Sample Ballot mailed to those voters who are NOT PEVL voters



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Vote Centers – How well did they work

- There were no wait times at any Vote Centers
 - Sharon Thomas, Chair of the Cochise County Democratic Committee, who had been vocal in opposition to the Vote Centers, stated after the election that she was timing voters from the time they entered the VC and found that most were out the door “within five minutes, or less”
- Troubleshooters located at or near a VC provided quick and effective resolution to the minor machine problems that occurred
- The distribution of voters across the available VCs was good

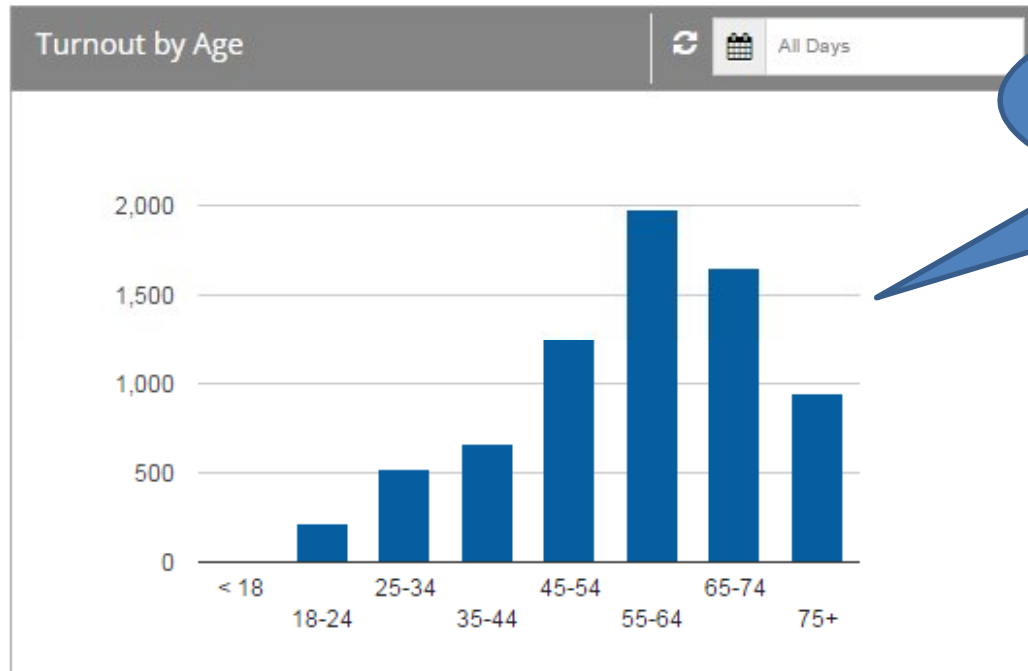


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Vote Centers – How well did they work

WHO Voted at the Vote Centers?



Approximately 4,550 of the 7,200 voters at the Vote Centers were age 55 or greater – 63%

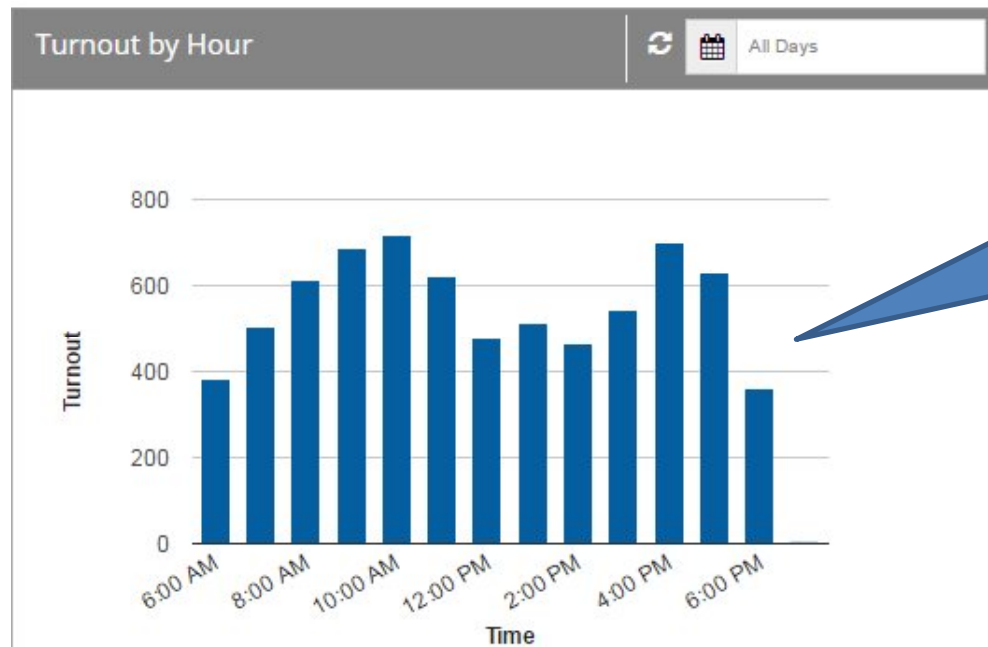


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Vote Centers – How well did they work

WHEN did voters vote at the Vote Centers?



The hours between 12PM until 4PM and from 6-7PM were the slowest turnout periods at Vote Centers

Turnout throughout the day was fairly even

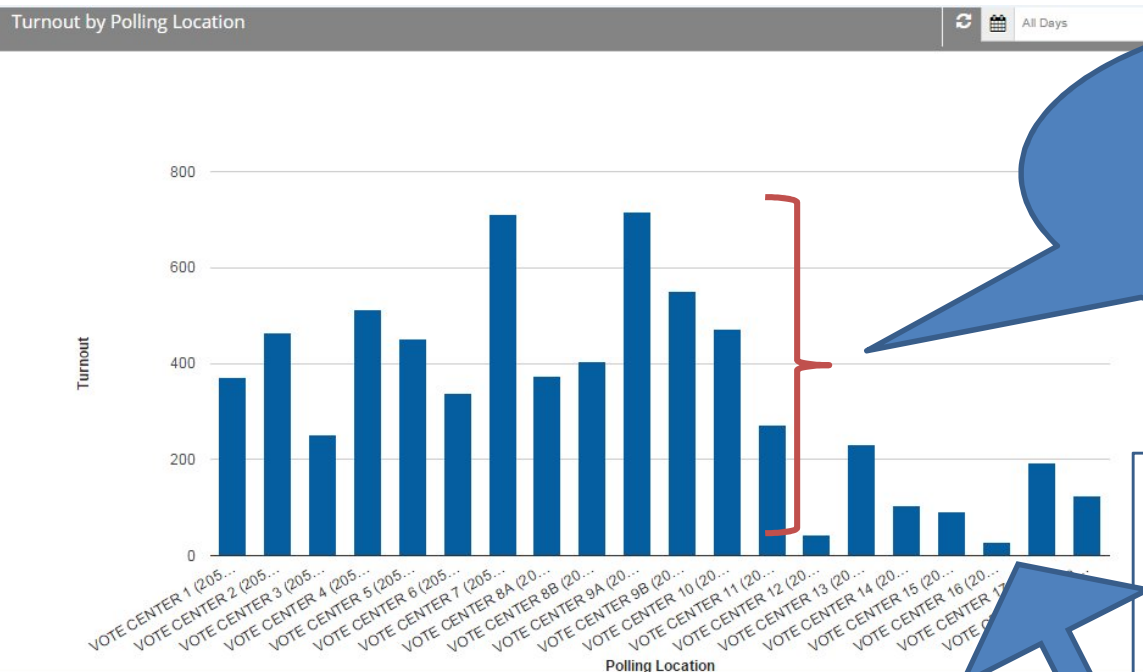


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Vote Centers – How well did they work

WHAT was the turnout, per Vote Center?



As expected, urban Vote Centers handled the bulk of voter turnout at the Vote Centers

In fact, the 7 Rural Vote Centers, (VC 12-18) had only 879 voters – or 12% of total Vote Center turnout. (Two VCs had less than 50 voters each.)

Turnout across urban Vote Centers was fairly well-balanced



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Voter Outreach re: Eligible Voters

- How well did that work?
- There were 1,106 Provisional Ballots submitted in the 3/22 PPE
 - Of those 696 ballots were accepted (mostly b/c those voters did not vote an Early Ballot)
 - In addition, 17 Provisional ballots were fed into the DS200 & mistakenly counted
 - Clearly, this issue requires more training w/ Poll Workers
 - Of the 388 ballots rejected, 339 were “Wrong Party” (i.e., ineligible) and 28 were “Not Registered” at all; the remainder had



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Voter Outreach re: Eligible Voters

How well did that work?

- Nearly 7,200 ballots were cast at Vote Centers for the PPE and only 338 were rejected for Wrong Party and another 21 not registered.
- It appears that most voters going to the Vote Centers had information about who was eligible to vote.
- However, there were more Provisional Ballots than previously.
 - Based on feedback throughout the state, some of the “Wrong Party” voters were probably ‘protest votes’ from Independents and others who feel disenfranchised by the laws governing the PPE election which prohibit their votes from counting.
 - Some voters who Surrendered their Early Ballot were erroneously required to vote a Provisional ballot.



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Comparative Statistics

	2012 PPE	2014 GENERAL	2016 PPE
Eligible VR: Total Turnout / %	Eligible VR: 29,415 11,679 / 39.70%	Eligible VR: 68,657 37,218 / 54.21%	Eligible VR: 45,952 24,310 / 52.9%
Early Votes	6,126 / 52.45%	23,705 / 63.69%	16,496 / 67.80%
Precinct/ Vote Ctr Votes	5,553 / 47.54%	12,446 / 33.44%	7,118 / 29.29%
Provisional Votes	376 / 3.22% (279 accepted, or 74.2%)	1,157 / 3.11% (Accepted 1,067 or 92.2%)	1,106-17 / 4.48% (17 run at VCs) 388 rejected 696 accepted, or 63.21%
"Wrong Party" & Not Reg. Voters	70 <u>14</u> 84	n/a <u>45</u> 45	339 <u>28</u> 367

16,500+ more registered voters in 2016 PPE (v. 2012) & more than twice as many who actually voted.



Disproportionate # of Provisional Ballots this time due to:

- Not receiving or not voting Early
- Many Independents tried to vote

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COCHISE COUNTY Hand Count

- Hand Count required by A.R.S. 16-602
 - Major parties designate participants
 - 4 teams of three, balanced by party
 - Vote Center 8b (Methodist Church) drawn at random for hand count; 2 candidates drawn
 - Batch 11 of Early Votes randomly chosen; 2 candidates drawn
- THERE WAS NO DISCREPANCY BETWEEN HAND COUNT RESULTS & MACHINE COUNT.



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COCHISE COUNTY Next Steps

- ✓ 46 days to prepare for next two elections on May 17th:
 - ✓ Douglas Mayoral runoff election (all-mail)
 - ✓ Statewide Special Elections (propositions)
- ✓ Programming Douglas ballot today; Statewide ballot complete
- ✓ Staff meeting w/ Inspectors, Troubleshooters 4/7 for feedback
- ✓ Poll Worker training will focus on provisional ballot process, new QR scan – “Express Track” & on use of intra-day Tally Sheet
- ✓ Additional signage is needed inside & outside of VCs
- ✓ Will do Voter Outreach focused again on Vote Centers and on use of new QR scan / advantages of “Express Track”



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REVIEW CANVASS REPORTS



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QUESTIONS?



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